

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

The Examiner objects to the Abstract as containing legal phraseology therein. By the current amendment, Applicants submit a Substitute Abstract that has been drafted paying particular attention to the concern raised by the Examiner. In view of the present amendment, Applicants submit that the ground for this objection no longer exists, and respectfully request that it be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claims 1-4 and 9 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,794,096 to OKABAYASHI.

According to a feature of the present invention, the power applied to an exciting coil is limited to prevent over-heating. Applicants submit that at least this feature is lacking in OKABAYASHI. OKABAYASHI discloses an induction type heating device having an induction heating coil 90, and a maximum coil voltage detection circuit 255. The maximum coil voltage detection circuit 255 detects a maximum coil voltage to prevent over-heating of a heat receiving member 30. When the coil voltage exceeds a predetermined reference voltage, the detection circuit 255 functions to turn OFF switching circuit 44, thus interrupting the current supplied to the induction heating coil 90, preventing over-heating. That is, OKABAYASHI discloses the stopping of the supply of current to the induction heating coil 90, whereas the present invention teaches limiting the power applied to the exciting coil.

By the current amendment, Applicants amended claims 1 and 9 to clarify that power to the coil is controlled in response to detecting that a safe operating voltage limit

has been exceeded. As at least this feature is lacking from OKABAYASHI, Applicants submit that the presently defined invention is not anticipated by OKABAYASHI. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claims 1-4 and 9.

Applicants also respectfully traverse the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claims 5-8, 10 and 12 as being anticipated by Japanese document JP 10301442.

According to another feature of the present invention, a rapid fluctuation of an inputted power source is detected. Applicants submit that at least this feature is lacking from Japanese document JP 10301442.

Applicants submit that Japanese document JP 10301442 discloses an electrical-potential-difference detection circuit 109 that generates a pulsating flow electrical potential difference that is synchronized with an electrical potential difference. Applicants submit that, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, this document fails to disclose (or even suggest) detecting a rapid fluctuation of the inputted power source.

By the present amendment, Applicants cancel claim 5, placing claim 6 into independent form, and amend claims 10 and 12 to clarify that the power apparatus input voltage detecting circuit detects a sharp rising fluctuation in the commercial voltage to be input to the power apparatus. As at least this feature is lacking from the Japanese document, Applicants submit that the present invention, as defined by the claims, is distinguishable from Japanese document JP 10301442. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claims 5-8, 10 and 12 and an indication of the allowability of claims 6-8, 10 and 11.

Applicants respectfully traverse the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejection of claim 11, submitting that U.S. Patent No. 5,881,349 to NANATAKI et al. fails to disclose or suggest that which is lacking in OKABAYASHI. Specifically, Applicants submit that NANATAKI et al. fails to disclose or suggest Applicants manner of controlling electrical power used to effect the heating. Thus, Applicants submit that if one attempted to combine the teachings of the applied art in the manner suggested by the Examiner, one would fail to arrive at the presently claimed invention, as such a combination would not include controlling the power to the coil in response to detecting that the applied voltage exceeds a safe operating voltage limit. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejection of claim 11.

Applicants also submit new claims 13-21 for the Examiner's consideration. Claims 13-15 depend from claim 1, and are submitted to be allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1. New independent claim 16 is directed to detecting a rapid voltage fluctuation which, as discussed above, is not taught by the applied art of record. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 16, along with dependent claims 17-21, are allowable over the applied art of record, and respectfully request such an indication from the Examiner.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION


In view of the fact that none of the art of record, whether considered alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the present invention as now defined by the pending claims, and in further view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the Examiner's action and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested and are believed to be appropriate.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Commissioner determine that an extension of time is required in order to render this response timely and/or complete, a formal request for an extension of time, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), is herewith made in an amount equal to the time period required to render this response timely and/or complete. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any required extension of time fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.117 to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

If there should be any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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